

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## TRIBUTE TO THE BROOKLYN TABERNACLE CHOIR

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir.

The internationally renowned Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir was founded in 1973. As part of the ministry of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in Brooklyn, New York, the 250-voice choir is recognized worldwide for the magnitude of its sound and the soul-filled inspiration of its music. Since its formation three decades ago, the choir has emerged as a major influence within the Christian/gospel music industry.

With a multi-ethnic and economically diverse membership, the choir truly represents the best of New York and America. Some members have been singing with the choir for more than 25 years. Despite their differing backgrounds, the entire choir operates like a close knit family. This level of cooperation is possible because of the individual commitment of the members and the inspired leadership of its director, Carol Cymbala. I want to commend the choir on its ability to apply the harmony of music to the ministry of life.

On February 23, 2003, the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir won a Grammy Award for Best Gospel Choir or Chorus for its album "Be Glad". With this most recent recognition, the group has become one of a few choirs which has attained the acknowledgment of both the popular music business and the Christian music industry. As a five-time winner of the Grammy Award and two-time winner of the Dove Award, the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir has performed in some of the most celebrated venues in New York City, including Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, and the Paramount Theater. In a rare testament to the power of its music, the choir has played to a sold-out audience at Madison Square Garden. With New York City and Brooklyn as its home, the choir continues to greatly impact the local community, including my district, the 10th Congressional District of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend this choir not only on its most recent Grammy Award but on its 30 years of dedicated music ministry. In these difficult and uncertain times, I sincerely hope that the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir continues to use music to bring a message of good news and hope to Brooklyn and the world.

## A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING KEVIN H. BARNETT

### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Kevin H. Barnett has devoted himself to serving others

through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Kevin H. Barnett has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Kevin H. Barnett has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Kevin H. Barnett must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award; and

Therefore, I join with Troop 141, the residents of Carrollton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Kevin H. Barnett as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

## SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SHRM)

### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the members of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) to Washington, D.C. for their 20th Annual Employment Law and Legislative Conference. Today, more than 200 SHRM members will visit Capitol Hill to share their views and experiences with issues such as the Fair Labor Standards Act, health care reform, and pension reform.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 170,000 individual members, the Society serves the needs of human resource (HR) professionals by providing the most essential and comprehensive set of resources available. As an influential voice, SHRM also seeks to advance the HR profession by ensuring that HR is an essential and effective partner in developing and executing organizational strategy.

As a legislator, I want to congratulate the members of SHRM for recognizing the important role individuals can play in affecting the legislative process. HR professionals maintain demanding schedules and are crucial to the successful operation of our nation's organizations. Most importantly they understand the positive impact of meeting with their Senators and Representatives to discuss recent workplace trends, their policy implications, and suggested remedies. Citizen participation is a crucial component of the legislative process, allowing legislators and their staff the opportunity to hear constituents explain personal experiences as they live and work within our nation's laws. Finally, legislators gain critical knowledge through these conversations, resulting in legislation that's clearly applicable to the workplace and effective for employees and employers.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank the members of SHRM for their commitment to provide

value to employees and employers across the United States while contributing an essential component to the political process—practical real world experience.

## ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

### HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share the following article written by a constituent, Rabbi Israel Zoberman. His article is timely and informative with respect to the current political situation in Israel.

With a heavy heart I bade shalom's farewell to elderly parents who are Holocaust survivors, and to Israel where I grew up, on the eve of the unknown. I left a country calmly readying itself for a probable American attack on Iraq in freedom's name, and possible ramifications for the Jewish state that already experienced a limited taste of Saddam Hussein's Scud missiles during the 1991 Gulf War. As then, which I witnessed as well, the Israeli public receives updated gas masks, and urged to prepare a sealed shelter with essential food items. There is less concern now though it can quickly change.

I visited Israel with fellow rabbis immediately following the general elections there which serve as a barometer for the citizens' mindset, particularly after enduring over two years of the bloody Second Intifada presenting Israel with its greatest crisis since its 1948 inception. The resulting shrinking economy and the growing gap between the haves and the have-nots have added pressure, but also fortified the Israeli resolve to withstand the Palestinian assault of unprecedented suicide-homicide bombings, reflected in the elections' outcome. Free elections are not to be taken for granted in that part of the world, and Israel's vibrant example is the only such sign of democratic life! Israel is worried that only 69 percent of eligible voters participated this time, that should only happen in our own great democracy.

Prime Minister Sharon and the political Right were assured a major victory though the message was primarily aimed at Chairman Arafat along with punishing Israel's Left for providing him through the Oslo Accords with the means to terrorize through short of submission to his agenda. Thus Arafat's plan boomeranged to gain through violence beyond what former Prime Minister Barak so trustfully offered him. He lost his gamble, with the Palestinians miscalculating once more and continuing to hurt their own welfare. This time Arafat succeeded to convince Israel and the U.S., both victims of terrorism and allies in combating it, that he is a critical obstacle to peace. I was fortunate to participate in a helicopter ride along the seam line separating the Israelis and Palestinians, watching from above the complexity of erecting the separation fence and Israel's disconcerting narrow waistline.

The sharpening conflict has also adversely impacted European Jewry as

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